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THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION

L E T T E R
TO THE PARLIAMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

The Central Committee of FRETILIN and the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, on May 28,1976 approved, during an Extraordinary Session, a letter addressed to all the Parliaments and Governments of all the countries of the world, explaining the actual situation in the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

Permanent Representation of Fretilin in Maputo.

The letter reads :

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LETTER
TO THE PARLIAMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS OF ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

1) Fierce fighting in the Democratic Republic of East Timor between the Armed Forces of the Indonesian Government and the Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor ;

ii) The Indonesian Government must withdraw immediately from the territory of East Timor all its forces so that the East Timorese can work in peace for the National Reconstruction of their country.

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The Central Committee of Fretilin and the Council of Ministers of the Government of the/ Democratic Republic of East Timor address themselves to the Parliaments and Governments of all Countries in the World in order to inform them of the genuine and real situation in the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

At the present time, the East Timorese people are living hourly in suffering, bitterness and blood. On November 28, 1975, when FRETILIN, the sole and legitimate representative of the people , proclaimed in Dili the foundation of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, which has already been recognised by several Governments, the East Timor saw their independence consecrated, after about 500 years of criminal Portuguese colonialism. After the proclamation of independence, the Democratic Republic of East Timor joined with States already constituted, and so dedicated the East Timorese people to the cause of Neutrality, Non-Alignment, Peace and Progress.

The proclamation of Independence was an heroic and courageous act by a people who aspired to be free, sovereign and independent, notwithstanding the retrograde forces of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism which carried every manouvre to impede this occurring.

From the moment the East Timorese people began to march decisively on the road to their liberation, Indonesia through the fascist and expansionist Suharto regime, attempted by all ways possible to influence and determine the decolonisation that Portugal was carrying out. Thus, since the beginning of decolonisation, Portugal compromised with the expansionism of the military and fascist clique headed by Suharto, who took power in 1965 in a coup , murdering about one million unarmed and innocent Indonesian citizens

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and who maintains more than 100,000 political prisoners (TAPOLS) in concentration camps.

A set of consecutive events took place ,when Portugal still exercised sovereighty during the decolonisation period :

a) THE MACAU SUMMIT held on June 25,1975 had no participation by FRETILIN because FRETILIN considered it another manouvre , questioing the sacred and unalienable right of the East Timorese people to self-determination and independence. Portugal had chosen to accept the pressures of the Indonesian Government concerning its expansionist aims ;

b) THE [illegible] COUP OF THE UDT (Timorese Democratic Union) on August 11,1975 , planned and supported by the Portuguese Government , was the major proof of the Macau Summit's failure due to the absence of the sole leading and motor force in the decolonisation process : FRETILIN. The coup was carried out two days after two leaders of UDT returned from Indonesia. The goals was the physical elimination of all of the Fretilin leadership;

c) THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONTROL BY FRETILIN over the territory due to the failure of the UDT coup, that followed a three week popular counter-offensive . This is yet one more proof of its support among and representativity of the people;

d) THE " DE FACTO" GOVERNMENT OF FRETILIN over the whole territory f in the months of September, October and November 1975, because the Portuguese Administration abandoned the territory and established its headquarters on the small island of Atauro, about 20 miles from Dili.

In this period of FRETILIN "de facto" government , life returned to normal, as was several times evidenced by the International Red Cross and International press bodies, which had free access to any point in the territory. In the same period, works of national reconstruction were profoundly implements in the fields of public health, production, administration and education. Vaccination campaigns took place ; production, distribution and consumption co-operatives were created, and dozens of anti-illiteracy schools were set up ;

e) In SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1975, Indonesia carried out the INVASION of East Timor across the border, while the Portuguese Government continued to refuse to negotiate with FRETILIN . FRETILIN still recognised Portugal as the Administering Power and therefore as responsible for the moral and physical integrity of the population and territory.

It was in these circumstances -- the refusal of Portugal and the beginning of the invasion of East Timor -- that FRETILIN, interpreting the will of the people of East Timor, proclaimed the foundation of the Democratic Republic of East Timor on November 28, 1975. This was the unique act of self-determination of the East Timorese People, who were victims of a compromised decolonisation and were attacked by Indonesia. For these reasons they put into practice the content of their watchword: "Independencia ou Morte, Venceremos " (Independence or Death. We shall Win.)

Just after the proclamation of Independence, Indonesia invaded the capital of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, on December 7, 1975.

Since that date , when the Armed Forces of the Indonesian Government

a fullscale invasion by land, air and sea, the East Timorese people, under the leadership of FRETILIN, have heroically resisted the war of aggression and extermination carried out by the militarist, fascist and expansionist Jakarta regime.

This unqualified act carried out by Suharto and his clique is an affront that violates all the universal principles accepted and consecrated in the United Nations Charter, in that of the Organisation of African Unity and in that of the Non-Aligned Countries, while it is also an insult to all the peoples all over the world, to the progressive, democratic and peace-loving forces.

On December 19, 1975, the 30th. Session of the United Nations General Assembly voted Resolution 3485/75, calling for the "withdrawal without delay of all Indonesian forces" from the territory of East Timor. On April 22, 1976, in spite of all the manouvres of Indonesia, which boycotted and impeded the meeting between Mr. Winspeare Guicciardi, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General, and the Fretilin central committee and the government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor in the liberated areas, the United Nations Security Council approved resolution 389/76, calling for the "withdrawal without further delay" of " all Indonesian forces" from the territory of East Timor.

Notwithstanding its repudiation and condemnation by the international community, Indonesia, in clear transgression, disrespect and provocation, is increasing daily its effective military strength both in men and military equipment in the territory of the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

On the other hand, Indonesia is trying by all ways possible to LEGALISE its expansionist and annexationist aims. Thus, through the use of the faked "Provisional Government", which is a puppet administration, Indonesia will carry out on May 31, 1976 a so-called "Act of Free Choice", by which it is trying to convince the international community that the East Timorese people are in this way going to exercise their right to self-determination, choosing to join the Republic of East Timor. The Government of Indonesia wants to repeat what it did in 1969 in West Irian. At that time, the UN representative, Ortiz Sanz, sent to observe the so-called referendum, reported to the 24th. Session of the UN General Assembly, expressing severe reservations concerning the way Indonesia guided the so-called "Act of Free Choice".

Indeed, the internal situation in the Democratic Republic of East Timor is grave, and must be a cause for anxiety to the whole international community. Very frequent bombardments occur daily. Disrespect for human life is current practice. The violation of the basic rights of Men, Women and Children is a fact. In the areas militarily occupied by the Indonesian soldiers, the people are living under a regime of terror. In the liberated areas --FRETILIN actually controls about 85 percent of the territory -- the fields of production and the health centres are daily targets for bombing by the Indonesian artillery and air force, which is using biological weapojs, napalm and other weapons of massive destructive power.

The Central Committee of FRETILIN and the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, a sovereign, free, independent, peaceful,

neutral and non-aligned State, are deeply concerned by all these acts of transgression and the provocative attitudes of the Indonesian Government.

The East Timorese people, the Central Committee of FRETILIN and the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor are aware of the justice of their struggle and appeal to the Parliaments and Governments of all Countries of the World, to understand the war of resistance of the East Timorese people.

The East Timorese people, the FRETILIN Central Committee and the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor are making every effort to force the Indonesian Government to withdraw immediately and without further delay all its forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, the only way to restore peace in the territory of East Timor, where a bloodbath is taking place.

The East Timorese people, the FRETILIN Central Committee and the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor are confident that the Parliaments and Governments of all countries of the world will not remain motionless before the atrocities and barbarities committed by the Armed Forces of the Indonesian Government against the East Timorese People and in face of the falsities and slanders spread by the murderous Suharto clique.

The withdrawal of all forces of the Indonesian Government from East Timor will allow the people of East Timor to live in peace and to peacefully reconstruct their country.

EAST TIMOR. May 28, 1976

ON BEHALF OF FRETILIN CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Signed:	Signed:
FRANCISCO XAVIER DO AMARAL	NICOLAU DOS REIS LOBATO
President of FRETILIN	Vice-President of FRETILIN
President of the Democratic Republic of East Timor	Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

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This important document has been hurriedly produced to make it speedily available to all movements and persons supporting the struggle of the East Timorese people. It will be printed in proper form shortly.

Campaign for Independent East Timor,
first floor , 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney,NSW.2000. July 11,1976